



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT POLK  
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BLDG 350  
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339

IMPO-PWE

MAR 15 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Garrison Policy Memorandum #23 – Prohibition of the Provision of Food, Water, and/or Shelter to Stray, Feral, or Wild Animals on Fort Polk Military Installation

1. References.

a. Army Regulation 40-905 SECNAVINST 6401.1B AFI 48-131, Veterinary Health Services, 26 August 2006.

b. Department of Defense Instruction 4150.07, DoD Pest Management, 29 May 2008.

c. Armed Forces Pest Management Board, Technical Guide No. 37, 25 May 2012.

2. Purpose. This memorandum establishes command policy prohibiting provision of food, water, and/or shelter to stray, feral, or wild animals on Fort Polk Military Installation, which includes cantonment, family housing, training, and recreation areas.

3. Applicability. This policy applies to all service members, DA Civilians, contractors, tenants, Family members, and guests on Fort Polk.

4. Background.

a. Stray, feral, and wild animals can harbor and transmit fatal and non-fatal diseases to humans and their pets. These include rabies, plague, internal parasites (such as ringworm), and external parasites (such as ticks, fleas, and mites). A bite or scratch from a stray animal can result in a medical emergency and may require transporting the victim for examination and treatment.

b. Stray, feral, and wild animals often live in close association with humans for food (either by scavenging or because people feed them) and shelter (under buildings and other structures). Caring for these animals, by providing them food and water, is ultimately not in the animals' best interest. Such care encourages breeding and further population growth of stray animals. The installation's feral cat population is a prime example of this problem. The feeding of wild animals causes them to become a nuisance or health threat, which in turn causes undue cost to the installation and subjects the animals to being captured or destroyed.

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5. Policy.

a. Providing food, water and shelter to stray, feral, or wild animals and/or tampering with or releasing captured animals from traps is prohibited on Fort Polk.

b. Exceptions to this policy must be secured in writing from the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental and Natural Resources Management Division.

c. Pets should be fed indoors whenever possible. Pet owners should remove excess food immediately after feeding if pets are fed outdoors. Water should be provided indoors or brought inside in the evenings when feral cats and wildlife are more active.

d. The provisions of this policy pertain to all persons visiting, assigned to, in temporary duty status, or employed on Fort Polk (to include Family members and guests). This policy is punitive in nature. Personnel subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) who fail to comply with the provisions of this policy are subject to punitive and administrative action. Individuals not subject to the UCMJ who fail to comply with the provisions of this policy may be subject to adverse administrative action.

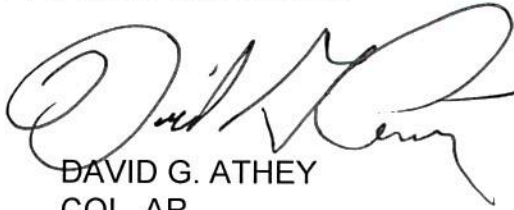
e. Enforcement will be through the following methods:

(1) All leaders will rigorously enforce this policy through on-the-spot corrections.

(2) Any individual who observes violations of this policy should report the violation to the relevant unit's or activity's chain of command or the Directorate of Public Works, Pest Management Office.

6. Proponent. The proponent for this policy is the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental and Natural Resources Management Division.

7. This policy will remain in effect until superseded or rescinded.



DAVID G. ATHEY  
COL, AR  
Commanding

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